

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: Cannabis Culture Issue #69 January - February 2008

Other Known Title: Cannabis Culture: Marijuana Magazine - Issue #69
Cannabis Culture Issue 69 Jan.Feb 2008

Medium: Magazine

Director/Author: Not Applicable

Producer/Publisher: Marc Emery

Country of Origin: Canada

Language: English

Applicant: Comptroller of Customs

Distributor: The Hemp Store Aotearoa

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Descriptive Note: Not Applicable

Display Conditions: Not Applicable

Date of entry in Register: 12 September 2008

Date of direction to issue a label: Not Applicable

OFLC No: 801066

Excisions: Not Applicable

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

**Summary of reasons
for classification:**

The magazine *Cannabis Culture #69 January - February 2008* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The classification is based on the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the magazine promotes and encourages criminal activity.

The magazine *Cannabis Culture* is published in Canada. The publication has merit as a source of information and as a forum for the expression of opinion on law reform issues. However, although the January – February 2008 issue of the magazine contains substantial articles commenting on political issues relevant to this debate, it also promotes and encourages activities that are illegal in New Zealand to a greater extent and degree than the several issues of the magazine previously classified R18 by the Office of Film and Literature Classification. The January - February edition includes a prominent and visually attractive feature on hashish extraction. The article provides information on how to use everyday items as substitutes for extraction equipment that is not readily available in New Zealand. This feature, in particular, influences the dominant effect of the magazine under review. When encouragement to break the law is the dominant effect, readers are less likely to interpret the magazine's support for currently criminal behaviour as advocacy of law reform, and more likely to see it as an invitation to experiment with criminal activities. Therefore, the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good.

The Classification Office has weighed the competing considerations of the issues raised above and the right to freedom of expression set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression. However, given the nature of the material and the criminal sanctions under New Zealand law for the preparation of cannabis products, this decision is reasonable, demonstrably justified, and consistent with preventing likely injury to the public good.